THE OBSERVER

"America, Land of the Free, Because of the Brave!"

Kewanna Library Comp.
Box 365

VOLUME 61, Number 08 Kewanna, IN 46939 Thursday, Jan. 4th, 2007 USPS 401-840 PRICE :-: 40c Per Copy

Red Bird Mission Team Plans Trip

The local Red Bird Mission Team is planning another mission trip to Kentucky for the last week in March. The group will leave Sunday, March 25 and return Saturday, March 31. The cost of the week is $230 per person. This covers room, board and work materials. Half of the work camp fee ($115) is due by February 1 and must be paid by the participant or their sponsor. Reservations can be turned in to Karen Good at The Observer. Individuals should take pocket money for Wednesday's (a free day) meals and miscellaneous expenses.

The team will raise the remaining funds through fundraisers and donations. A Hap's chicken bash is set for Wednesday, February 14, at the Kewanna United Methodist Church. More will be announced on this later.

An organizational meeting for those interested in taking part in the work camp will be held Sunday, January 14, at 2 p.m. in the annex of the Kewanna United Methodist Church. For more information, call Helen Peters, 574-946-4175; Karen Good, 574-653-2101 or 2777; Bruce Baker, 574-653-2894; Charlie Bye, 574-857-3676; or Janine Smith, 574-817-0519.

+++

Cycling Meeting, January 10

Richard Vonnegut of the Indiana Trails Fund will meet with the Round Barn Cyclists to plan a bike route to Monterey Wednesday, January 10, at 5:30 p.m. at the Wellness Center, corner of 5th and Main St., Rochester. Vonnegut is planning a bike route hub at Monterey and wants to connect to Fulton County.

For more information, contact Shirley Willard at 574-223-2352.

+++

Hospice Open House

Those donating to the Hope Hospice Memorial Christmas Tree, honorees, families of memorialized persons, and all friends of Hope Hospice are invited to an open house to be held Wednesday, January 10, from noon to 3 p.m. at the hospice office, 420 Main St., Rochester.

During the open house, the commemorative ornaments from the tree will be given as keepsakes of this special holiday season to participating families.

+++

Rochester License Branch Hours
Tues., 8:30-7:00
Wed., Thurs. & Fri., 8:30-5:00
Sat., 8:30-12:30
Closed Sun. & Mon.

+++

DAR Essay Contest

The Manitou Chapter of Daughters of American Revolution is offering prizes to Fulton County students for writing original essays in junior high (grades 6-8) and high school categories. The essays must be typed, not more than 750 words, referenced with bibliography, and submitted to Shirley Willard, Manitou Chapter regent, 3063 S 25 E, Rochester, Indiana 46975. The deadline is January 20. A $25 prize will be awarded in each category. In addition, one high school essay and one junior high essay will be entered in the state and national DAR contests. The grand prize is a trip to Washington D.C. to receive national recognition and a tour of the nation's capital.

The topic for the high school American history essay contest is "Jamestown Colony is Settled". To help commemorate the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, the writer will take on the persona of one of the early settlers. Write a letter to your family members who remain in England and tell them about the activities and hardships involved with helping to establish the settlement. In the letter, be sure to include information about your fellow settlers, as well.

The topic for the Christopher Columbus essay contest for junior high students is "At Sea or at Home: Different Perspectives on the Voyage to the New World. Students will relate the story of the first expedition of Columbus viewed from the perspective of an ordinary seaman, Queen Isabella or a shipboard rat.

+++

Genealogy Section Elects Officers/Plans for 2007

The Genealogy Section of the Fulton County Historical Society met December 12 for lunch at the Streamliner Central. Officers were elected for 2007. Chosen to serve were Dora Jones, president; Mary Jane Zellers, vice president; Phil White, secretary; and Melinda Clinger, treasurer.

Plans were made for the coming year. Events include a trip to the newly renovated Fort Wayne Library, March 10; Fulton County 4-H genealogy workshop 7:30 p.m. April 2; "Genealogy for Night Owls" at the Fulton County Museum from 7:30 to midnight, July 27; and the annual luncheon, November 13.

The program included a show and tell event.

Shirley Willard, editor of the *Fulton County Folk Finder*, is now working on the January issue. Persons wishing to submit articles or queries should email them to wwillard@rtcol.com or send them to the Fulton County Museum, 37 E 375 N, Rochester, IN 46975.

+++

Do Not Fax Law Takes Effect

Indiana's Do Not Fax law took effect Monday, January 1, 2007. Recipients of unsolicited advertising faxes may report them to the Consumer Protection Division.

"The new law allows the state to pursue blast faxers who use the ink and paper of Hoosier fax owners to subsidize their advertising campaigns," said Attorney General Steve Carter. "Citizens throughout the state have expressed relief that there are now state protections in place that the attorney general can utilize to combat these annoying and costly nuisances."

The legislation unanimously passed during the 2006 General Assembly. The law makes the sending of an unsolicited fax a deceptive consumer act and allows the attorney general to pursue penalties of up to $1,500 per unwanted fax.

In order to pursue a complaint, the attorney general will need a copy of the unsolicited fax along with a completed complaint form. Unlike the Do Not Call registry, citizens do not need to sign their fax number up on any registry.

"Small businesses are really the winners as a result of this law because they are no longer powerless to take action against unwanted faxes that can tie up their phone lines and use their ink and paper," Carter said.

Only unsolicited advertising faxes that take place on or after January 1, 2007 can be pursued. Citizens wishing to file complaints should save a copy of the unsolicited fax to submit with the consumer complaint form.

Under federal law, faxes that don't promote a commercial product or service, such as religious or political messages, are not subject to the law. Additionally, faxes sent as a result of a prior established business relationship do not qualify as advertisement faxes.

Consumers can go to www.AttorneyGeneral.in.gov to file a complaint about an unsolicited fax. In order to submit the complaint, print and fill out the form and mail it to the Consumer Protection Division along with a copy of the unsolicited fax. Consumers can mail their complaint to: Indiana Attorney General Office, Telephone Privacy Division, 302 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

Consumers without Internet access can call 1-800-382-5516 and ask for a complaint form to be mailed to them.

+++

Kewanna Community Food Pantry
United Methodist Church
Open Thursday By Appointment
Phone 574-653-2201

+++

Bereavement Support Group to Meet

Anyone who has suffered the death of a loved one is invited to meet with the bereavement support group at Hope Hospice, 420 Main St., Rochester, Tuesday, January 16, at 7 p.m. The 30-minute video, *Healing Your Grief Wound: The Early Weeks,* will be shown and a discussion will follow.

The one-hour meeting is free of charge to those attending. Chaplain Ron Purkey from Hope Hospice will be the group leader. The public is invited to attend. For more information, call the hospice office at 574-224-4673.

+++

Open House at Woodlawn Hospital

Woodlawn Hospital, Rochester, will hold an open house Wednesday, January 17, to introduce its new state-of-the art Philips Brilliance CT scanner. The public in invited to attend and learn how this important diagnostic imaging technology can help physicians detect and treat serious disease in an early stage, which may lead to a more successful outcome. Open house hours will be from 5 to 7 p.m. at the hospital. Those attending the open house should park in the front visitor parking lot and enter through the main entrance.

+++

Healthcare Provider Class at PMH

Pulaski Memorial Hospital, Winamac, is offering a Healthcare Provider class January 25. The class starts at 6 p.m. Eastern Time and will end at approximately 10 p.m. The cost is $40 per person. Call 574-946-2193 to request a registration form or pick one up at the admissions desk. Class size is limited so call early to reserve your space. Classes may be rescheduled if paid participants number less that six by January 22.

+++

Indiana State Fairgrounds Upcoming Events

Stewart's Indiana Flea Market: Jan. 5-7 in the Ag/Hort Building. Hours: Fri. noon to 6 p.m.; Sat. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission: $9; children 16 and younger free (admission good both days).

Super Sunday Indy Automotive Swap Meet and Car Sale: Jan. 7 in the West Pavilion & South Pavilion. Hours: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission: $5; children 11 and younger free.

+++

Recycling Dates
Friday, Jan. 12th
Friday, Jan. 26th

Indiana Receiving More than $1M in Tobacco Settlement

Attorney General Steve Carter announced recently that Indiana is receiving more than $1 million under a $55.4 million settlement reached with House of Prince A/S and Scandinavian Tobacco, S.I.A. to resolve a dispute over enforcement of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement (MSA).

"It's important to enforce all provisions of the MSA to help reduce tobacco use and protect consumers from its deadly consequences," Carter said.

The MSA requires tobacco manufacturers that signed the agreement to make annual payments to the states, in part to compensate the states for billions of dollars in health care costs associated with treating tobacco-related diseases under state Medicaid programs. House of Prince is a Participating Manufacturer under the MSA, and Scandinavian Tobacco is an affiliated entity.

The settlement resolved a three-year court dispute over whether cigarettes manufactured by Scandinavian Tobacco and sold in the U.S. from 1999-2003 were subject to MSA's payment requirements and other obligations. No cigarettes manufactured by Scandinavian Tobacco have been sold in the U.S. since 2003.

The State of California filed a lawsuit in February 2003 to force House of Prince to make MSA payments for Scandinavian Tobacco's cigarettes. Assisted by other states, California won preliminary legal actions. House of Prince subsequently entered settlement discussions that produced a national agreement with all the jurisdictions that signed the MSA – 46 states, four territories, Puerto Rico and Washington D.C.

Aside from its payment provisions, the MSA created a broad array of restrictions on the advertising, marketing and promotion of cigarettes. It prohibits the targeting of youth in cigarette advertising. It also restricts outdoor advertising of cigarettes, the advertising of cigarettes in public transit facilities, and the use of cigarette brand names on merchandise, among other limitations.

+++

The News In Brief

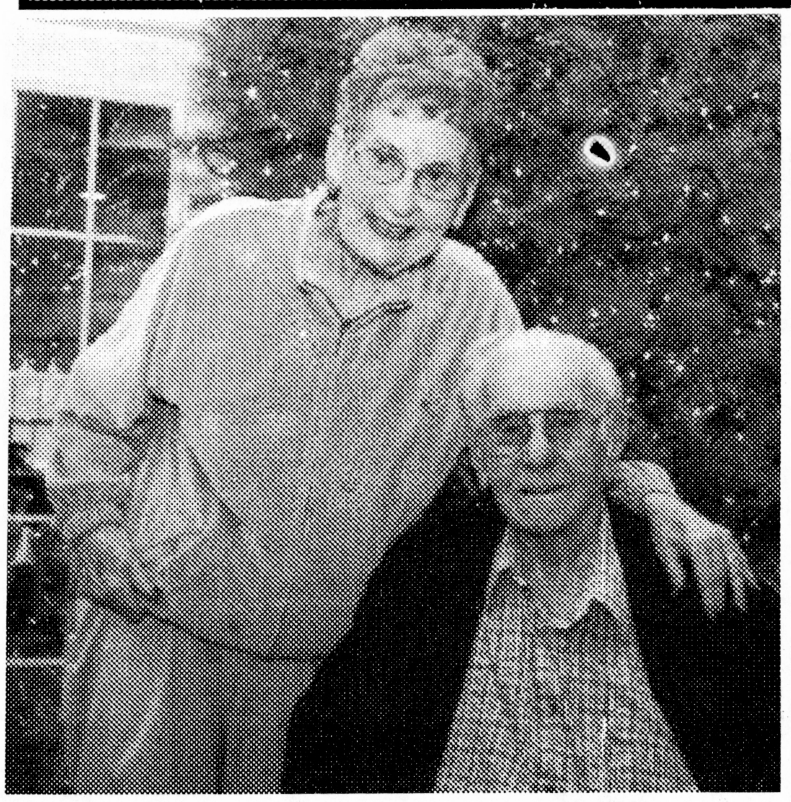
The Fulton County Board of Finance will hold a reorganization meeting for 2007 Monday, January 8, at 8:30 a.m. in the conference room of the Fulton County Office Building, Rochester.

+++

Send In Your News

Clubs Societies Personals

The Observer
MEMBER: Indiana Republican Editorial Association
MEMBER: Hoosier State Press Association
EDITOR & PUBLISHER :-: Karen Good
Published Weekly / Thursday
Postmaster: Send address changes to
P. O. Box 307, Kewanna, Indiana 46939
"Periodicals Postage Paid at Kewanna, IN 46939"
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE - (Payable in Advance)
$15.00 Per Year in IN / $16.00 Outside IN
$.40c Per Single Copy / Phone: (574) 653-2101



Send In Your News

Shidakers Observe 69th Anniversary

Former Kewanna residents, Lester and Lois Shidaker, celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary with family on Saturday, December 23, at Wynnfield Crossing in Rochester. Lester and the former Lois E. Lambert were married December 26, 1937 in Kewanna by Rev. Albert Worl. They have three daughters, Janice (David) Bleeke and Linda (Bill) Worl, Fort Wayne, and Trudy (DeWayne) Cilek, Crown Point. They also have five grandchildren and 13 great-great grandchildren.

+++

Recycling Dates
Friday, Jan. 12th
Friday, Jan. 26th

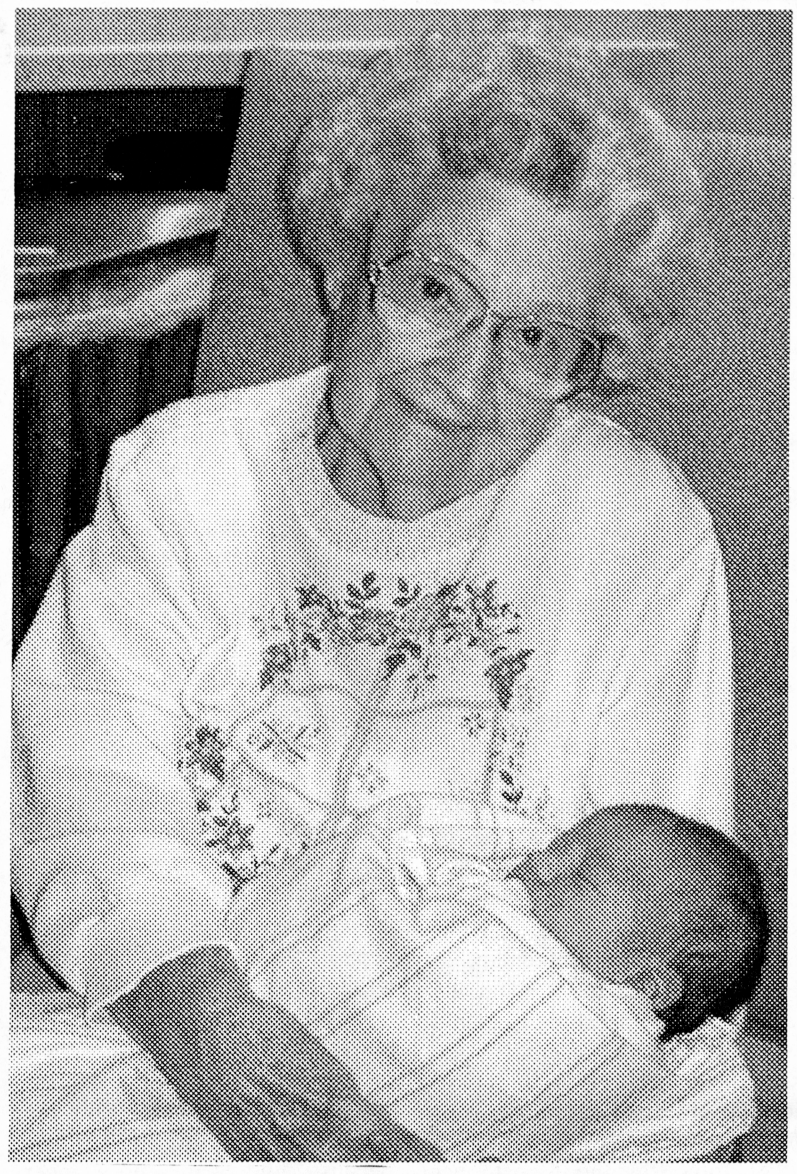
Cookbooks for Sale

The Fulton Improvement Committee will begin selling their one-of-a-kind cookbooks in December. The cookbook contains 634 recipes collected from group members, family and friends including appetizers, main dishes, desserts and many others. The recipes include the contributor's name.

The cookbook is available from committee members or at Mary's Stitch and Knit, Fulton. All proceeds will go to the Liberty Township Community Building Project.

+++

FULTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE HOURS
Mon. thru Thurs. 8 to 4
Friday, 8 to 5
CLOSED Sat. and Sun.



Former Lake Bruce resident, Dortha Waidner, 91, is pictured here holding her great-granddaughter, Lydia Ann Smith. Lydia was born to Tony and Deidra Smith December 27, 2006, at Clarion North Hospital in Carmel. She weighed 7 pounds and two ounces and is joined at home by a sister Rebecca and two brothers Anthony and Elisha Smith. Lydia was named after her maternal great-great grandmother, Lydia Avanga Buck Strong. The proud grandparents are Rob and Debbie Wingerter, Zionsville/Lake Bruce and Tom and Linda Smith, Indianapolis.

+++

Caston Elementary Collecting Plastic Bags

Caston Elementary students are collecting plastic shopping bags (no salt bags or shrink wrap) until April 13. The bags can be sent to school with your child or dropped off at the elementary office. They will be delivered monthly to a designated location in Logansport. The Cass County school collecting the most bags will receive a piece of furniture made from recycled plastic and will be recognized at the annual Earth Day activities involving third graders.

+++

Subscribe To The Observer

Happy "50th" GRANDMA

Garrett
Cale
Curtis
Ellei
Emma

Soybean Candles
$5.00
January Favorite
Coconut Cream Pie
J L Widman Incorporated
227 East 9th St.
Rochester, IN 46975

RON'S CARPET SERVICE
Carpet/Linoleum
Laminate Flooring
Ceramics
Ph: (574) 653-2202
RON HAMMAN
ALL WORK GUARANTEED.....
P.O. Box 124 / Kewanna, IN 46939

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
Make a difference in a child's life. Become a trained CASA Volunteer and speak up for the children of Fulton County.
You can be a voice for children in need of services.
Please call today 574-223-2183
Mill Race Complex, Rochester
401 E. Eighth St., Ste. E
E-mail:casafultoncounty@rtcol.com

CRULL Enterprise
Sand - Gravel - Limestone - Fill Dirt - Black Dirt
Richard and Lois Crull
P. O. Box 113 / Leiters Ford, IN 46945
Ph.: (574) 542- 4403 **Home Ph.: (574) 542-4589**

2180 Southway 31, PO Box 607, Rochester, IN 46975-0607
Office 574-223-3518
Office 1-800-508-9873
Fax 574-223-6914
Cell 574-835-0626
Home 574-857-9955
cdougla@e-farmcredit.com

Craig Douglass
Financial Services Officer
Farm Credit Services OF MID-AMERICA

HANDSCHU CONSTRUCTION
Kewanna, IN 46939
(574) 653-2422
Repair and Remodeling Specialist...!

Still Nifty At "50"

Happy Birthday Vickie
We Love You!!!
Your Family

HOSPITAL NOTES....

WOODLAWN HOSPITAL

December 25
Births – Amber May, Rochester, a daughter

December 26
Admissions – Deborah Domke, Ethel Ludwig, Frederick Keim and Katelyn Drudge, Rochester
Dismissals – Joyce Bailey and daughter and Gary Richardson, Rochester; Lucas Skipper, Warsaw; and Brenda Kelly, Kewanna
Births – Christina and Kenneth Swanson, Sr., Rochester, a daughter; Mandy and James Repp, Argos, a daughter

December 27
Admissions – None published
Dismissals – Ian Figueroa, Knox; Ethel Ludwig and Amber May and daughter, Rochester

December 28
Admissions – Charles Rudd, Rochester; Barrett Heller, Akron; Lillie Herendeen, Silver Lake
Dismissals – Sharon Bogseth, Frederick Keim and Katelyn Drudge, Rochester
Births – Nicole Prathaftakis, Rochester, a son

December 29
Admissions – None published
Dismissals – Christina Swanson and daughter, Rochester; Mandy Repp and daughter, Argos

+++

PULASKI MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

December 22
Admissions – Crystal Starr, Jodie Nuss, and Wanda Parks, Winamac; Leisha Davis, Francesville
Dismissals – Robert Tauteris Sr., Almosa, CO; Kim Longoria and daughter, North Judson; Samantha Anthony and daughter, Medaryville
Births – Jeremy Toot and Jodie Nuss, Winamac, a daughter, Piper Lynn Toot

December 23
Admissions – Shaun Duquay Pratt, Winamac; Martin Piepenburg, Monterey
Dismissals – Jodie Nuss and daughter, Crystal Starr, Dorothy Dulhanty and Melissa Jelinek and daughter, Winamac

December 24
Admissions – None
Dismissals – Elaine Ludwig, Monterey; Shaun Duquay Pratt and Wanda Parks, Winamac

December 25
Admissions – None
Dismissals – Doris Plowman, Winamac

December 26
Admissions – Cecil Hood, Kewanna; Samantha Froeschke, San Pierre; Donald Behny, Winamac; Tristen Lovely, Monticello
Dismissals – Martin Piepenburg, Monterey
Births – Timothy Prater and Samantha Froeschke, San Pierre, a daughter, Jazmine Rain Lynn Prater

December 27
Admissions – None
Dismissals – Gaige Liam Murray, North Judson

December 28
Admissions – None
Dismissals – Cecil Hood, Kewanna; Samantha Froeschke, San Pierre

+++

AREA FIVE MENU
Kewanna Fire Station

Monday, January 8 – Turkey with gravy, mixed vegetables, tropical fruit salad, sugar cookie, wheat bread and milk

Wednesday – Baked chicken, spinach, Prince Charles vegetables, cake, roll and milk

Friday – Chicken salad, vegetable soup, fruit cocktail, cookie, crackers, bread and milk

+++

DEATHS.....

JAMES A. ENYART

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, December 30, 2006 at the Harrison-Metzger Funeral Home, Kewanna Chapel, for James A. Enyart, 58, Kewanna. Pastor John Cochran officiated and burial, including military graveside services, was in the Kewanna Citizens-I.O.O.F. Cemetery. Mr. Enyart died at 1:46 a.m. Thursday, December 28, at his residence.

Born February 13, 1948 at Hoover in Cass County, he was the son of Arthur and Audrey Scheuer Enyart. He was married December 18, 1992 in Rochester to Carolyn Hintz, who survives.

A 1965 graduate of Caston High School, he was a U.S. Army veteran, having served in Vietnam. A plumber, he worked out of Local #166 for 40 years. He liked to fish and hunt mushrooms and enjoyed woodworking.

Surviving besides his wife are two sons, Joshua Enyart and his wife, Kristi, Peru, Jeremy Enyart and his wife, Donna, Argos; two step-sons, Bradley Culp and Bryan Culp, both of Rensselaer; two step-daughters, Sharon LaBrooy, Knoxville, Tennessee, and Michelle Martin, St. Petersburg, Florida; two brothers, Cecil Enyart, Rochester, and Mark Mattox, Delphi; two sisters, Debra O'Conner, Royal Center and Janet Nolte, Logansport; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or Hope Hospice.

+++

CHARLES T. "TOM" FLOYD

Services were conducted at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at Global Harvest Church north of Winamac for Charles T. "Tom" Floyd, 60, Rochester, formerly of Winamac. Pastor Billy Bope officiated and burial was in St. Peters Catholic Cemetery, Winamac. Mr. Floyd died at 9:40 a.m. Saturday, December 30, at his residence near Kewanna.

He was born July 22, 1946 in Logansport to the late Glenn R. and Marie (Wisely) Floyd. He was married May 1, 2003 to Tammy J. Hamilton, who survives. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Karen Walters, who he married September 11, 1969 at St. Anne's Catholic Church, Monterey, and who died in 1989. Also preceding in death was his second wife, Charlene L. Rearick Jones, who he married at Ora on August 19, 1990, and who died September 1, 2002, and two brothers.

He worked at Kewanna Metal Specialties, Inc. and was a member of Global Harvest Church, Monterey, and the Christian Home Church, Rochester. He enjoyed bowling and playing cards.

Surviving besides his wife are three sons, Thomas William Floyd and his wife, Tina, Robin A. Floyd, and Timothy J. Floyd and his wife, Tammy, all of Winamac; one daughter, Viola Mae Henderson and her husband, Jeffrey, Winamac; two step-sons, Craig B. Jones, Logansport, and Glen Hamilton, Rochester; one sister, Patsy VanVoorst, Monon; his father-in-law, Lawrence A. Hamilton, Rochester; and 11 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hope Hospice, Box 621, Rochester, IN 46975.

Harrison-Metzger Funeral Homes, Kewanna Chapel, was in charge of arrangements.

+++

EASTERN PULASKI MENU
January 8 – 12

Elementary Breakfast

Monday – Cereal, graham cracker, juice and milk

Tuesday – Breakfast pizza, juice and milk

Wednesday – Danish, yogurt, juice and milk

Thursday – Peanut butter crackers, juice and milk

Friday – Toaster pastry, juice and milk

Elementary Lunch

Monday – Pizza burger, carrot coins, peaches, graham crackers and milk

Tuesday – Sausage gravy, biscuits, hash browns, juice and milk

Wednesday – Hot ham and cheese sandwich, broccoli, apple, brownie and milk

Thursday – Beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, fruit ice, cinnamon roll and milk

Friday – Chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich, baby carrots, orange and milk

Middle/High School Lunch

Monday – Stuffed crust pepperoni pizza, green beans, pears, cookie and milk. Choice – salad bar

Tuesday – Nachos, tostitos, carrots, orange juice cup, cookie and milk. Choice – salad bar

Wednesday – Ravioli, garlic cheese bread, peas, applesauce (high school), grapes (middle school), and milk. Choice – salad bar

Thursday – Chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, mixed fruit, baking powder biscuit and milk. Choice – salad bar

Friday – Taco salad with cheese, tostitos, pineapple, cookie and milk. Choice – potato bar

+++

A Nonprofit, Public Benefit Organization
Hope Hospice of Fulton County
Brenda Purkey, RN
Patient Care Coordinator
420 Main Street, P.O. Box 621
Rochester, IN 46975
(574) 224-4673 (888) 737-4673
Website: http://www.rtcol.com/~hospice/

Fritz's WINDOWS
574-595-7262
• Bays, Bows, Patio Doors
• Vinyl Replacement Windows
• Storm Doors & Entry Doors
• FREE In-Home Estimates
• Porch Enclosures
DON FRITZ
Star City
Cell: 574-225-3030

Happy Sweet "16"
JEANANN

Love, Mom, Dad and Darin

Shafer Family Lawn Care
(574) 653-9989
(574) 817-0955
E-mail: shaferfamilylawncare@earthlink.net
Mowing, Hedge Clipping, Edging, Trimming,
Licensed Chemical Application

Subscribe To The Observer

WELLS FARGO
The Next Stage®
Rochester
202 E. 9th St. • 574-223-3151
Akron
109 Rochester St. • 574-893-4531
© 2005 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC wellsfargo.com

SMITH SAWYER SMITH INC
INSURANCE & BONDS
Independent Insurance Agent
SERVING FULTON COUNTY SINCE "1932"
124 E. 8th Street, Rochester, IN 46975
Ph.: (574) 223-2166
FAX (574) 223-8713 www.smithsawyerins.com

Fashion FLOORS & INTERIORS, INC
•Financing Available with Approved Credit
•Prices To Fit Every Budget
•All Work Guaranteed
•Free Estimates
126 N. Sally Drive, Winamac, IN
(in the plaza- behind McDonalds)
(574) 946-4454 Toll Free 1-877-946-4454
Stop In .. Our Prices Will Floor You!
Start the New Year out right with some new floor coverings.
^^^^^^^^^^^
Check out our warehouse for great deals on in-stock flooring or browse our beautiful showroom to find just what you're looking for.
Need Area Rugs?
We just received a New shipment.
Or how about a new Vacuum or Air Purifier?
Hurry in - we have select models on sale (while supplies last)
Check out our new line of window Coverings / we offer free estimates and free installation

Kewanna/Union Township PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS....

New books at the library:

ADULTS:

Christian Fiction— *A Woman's Place* by Lynn Austin; *Scoop* (#1 of The Occupational Hazards series) by Rene Gutteridge; and *The Brushstroke Legacy* and *The Way of Women* by Lauraine Snelling.

Christian Nonfiction— *Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado.

General Nonfiction— *Marley & Me* by John Grogan.

Science Fiction— *The Sound & The Furry* by Poul Anderson.

JUVENILES:

Teenage Fiction— *The Trap* by John E. Smelcer; *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck; and *The Vanishing Chandler* and *The Giant Yo-Yo Mystery* (#106 and #107 of the Boxcar Children series) by Gertrude Chandler Warner.

Ages up to 10 Years Fiction— from the John Deere series: *Allie Gator's Halloween Hayride* by Heather Alexander and *Barney Backhoe and The Big City Dig* by Susan Knopf; from the Berenstain Bears series: *The Berenstain Bears Down on The Farm* and *The Berenstain Bears Out West* by Stan and Jan Berenstain; and *The Snow Globe Family* by Jane O'Connor.

Ages up to 10 Years Christmas Fiction— *The Greatest Shepherd of All* by Holley Gerth.

Ages up to 10 Years Nonfiction— from the A First Look at Book series by Pat Thomas: *I'm Telling The Truth* and *My Manners Matter.*

+++

LOCALS

Ruth Cogdill had surprise visitors Thursday. Richard and Nancy Arrasmith and Shade Cogdill stopped by in the morning for a visit. Shade had so much news to tell Grandma about Christmas. He also told her he would be going that evening to North Judson to spend the night with his maternal grandmother, Pam Arrasmith.

Helen Miller and Ron had company Thursday. Joining them for dinner were Helen's son and daughter- in- law, Kenneth and Barbara Miller of Plymouth; her daughter and son- in- law, Judy and John Scott of Frankfort; and her granddaughter and family, Traci and Scott Hilliard, Olivia and Clay, of Plymouth.

Brian and Sonya Kleiner and Sid were chauffeured to the Indianapolis airport Thursday by Linda and Gordon Ligocki. The Kleiners were bound for New York and a holiday visit with Brian's family.

Jim and Deb Brown and Clayton of Fairland arrived late Thursday for a holiday visit with Jim's mother and sister, Pauline Brown and Julie.

Tom and Barb LaFollette, Karina and Terry Bohac, Shelby and Nick, and Shelby's friend, Kyle, traveled to South Bend Friday, Dec. 29. They had a fun time dining at the Hacienda restaurant and seeing a movie.

Jackie Heidenreich and John Lincoln were dinner guests of Vickie and Mike Molitor Friday. The family had a very nice time helping Jackie celebrate her birthday.

Clayton Brown had company Friday. Coming over for an energy- filled day of playing around the house and at the park was Luke Sutton.

Earl and Mary Bangel hosted their family's Christmas gathering Saturday, Dec. 30. Joining them for dinner and a lot of visiting were their daughter, Linda Bangel of Schoolcraft, Michigan; their sons and their families, Darel and Nancy Bangel and Andrew of West Lafayette, Louis and Jean Bangel and Joyce of Winamac and Bruce and Theresa Bangel, Rob and Kevin, of Indianapolis; and their granddaughter and her husband, Amber and Garrick Merrill of Alabama.

Saturday guests of Joe and Karen Good for a Christmas celebration were Jeff and Tonya Good, Jeffrey, Tosha, Allie and Devin of Indianapolis; Ryan Baker and Leslie Bedrock of West Lafayette; Forrest and Elnora Baker, Mark and Kelly Smith, Lindsey, Kara and Zachary, Bruce and Denise Baker, Daniel Baker and Andrea Gunter. Afternoon callers were Mark and Pam Howdeshell of Rochester.

Ruth Ann Anderson left Saturday for a three- day holiday visit with her daughter and son-in- law, Becky and Jim Lincoln in South Bend. Also staying with the Lincolns were their daughter and her family of Madison, Wisconsin, Leslie and Dr. Dennis Halterman and Lauren. The family was also joined throughout the weekend by the Lincolns' daughter and her family, Sara and Adam Edwards and Kahlan of South Bend. The family had a wonderful time getting together for a triple celebration of Christmas, Kahlan's 4th birthday and New Year's Day.

Kevin and Monica Whiteman of Pulaski hosted the Whiteman family Christmas gathering Sunday. Among their many guests was Kevin's mother, Helen Whiteman.

Jon and Barb Gast and Angela traveled to Winamac Sunday, Dec. 31. They accompanied Jon's parents, Stuart and Rachel Gast, to Star City and dinner at the Oak Grove Restaurant.

Hugh and Maryellyn Tennent were New Year's Eve guests of Gilbert and Joyce Vallis.

Ruth Cogdill's holiday culminated with a call from her son, Mike Cogdill of Eagle River, Alaska. He wanted to wish her a happy New Year and to let her know he had two feet of snow on the ground and more was falling.

Mary K. Williamson and Rita of Winamac hosted a family gathering in honor of the holidays Sunday. Their guests for supper and a lot of family catching- up were Mary K.'s daughters and son- in- law, Karen Kruger of Brownsburg and Kay and Jerry Brown and her grandchildren and their families, Christopher Williamson of Winamac, Lori and Gene Harding, Annabelle and Graham, of Mishawaka, Sue and Mike McKinney and Molly and Angie and Tom Smith, Leighnee, Kaelee, William and Aidan of Rochester, Mark and Mick Brown and Mike and Kathie Brown.

Leave it to Indiana weather. We ended 2006 with temperatures near 50° and an evening thunderstorm and 2007 began with strong winds and snow.

Those persons who will be having birthdays next week (so please remember to give them your best regards) are: Debbie Brown, Joyce Donathan, Pam Evers, Mick Herrold, Bud Leazenby, Ed Mollencupp and Ryan Watson, Jan. 7; Vickie Gupton, Vickie Molitor, Andrew Smith, Seth Studebaker and Tim Wilson, Jan. 8; Alexandria Baker and Scott Oliver, Jan. 9; Delores Jones, Patty McKinney and Brayden Ousley, Jan. 10; Connie Cogdill and Erin Tomerlin, Jan. 11; John Lincoln, Ron Scantlen and Doris Zellers, Jan. 12; and Jacob Kiss, Dave Patty and Jay Urbin, Jan. 13.

Mr. and Mrs. Rick Weller will be celebrating their wedding anniversary Jan. 8.

CASH'N CARRY SALE
Sat., Jan. 6th
9:00 a.m. - Noon Only!
SALT SALE!!
80 Lb. Natural $6.13 +tax
50 Lb. Natural $4.25 +tax
50 Lb. Iron Fighter $5.42 +tax
Culligan Drinking Water 5 Gal. $4.00
Culligan
The world's source for better water.
129 E. 5th St. Rochester
574-223-2420 • 888-294-5541

-WANTED-
Farm Scrap, Junk Cars and Trucks
Phone:
(574) 653-2578
DAVID WOODS
6879 West, State Road 14

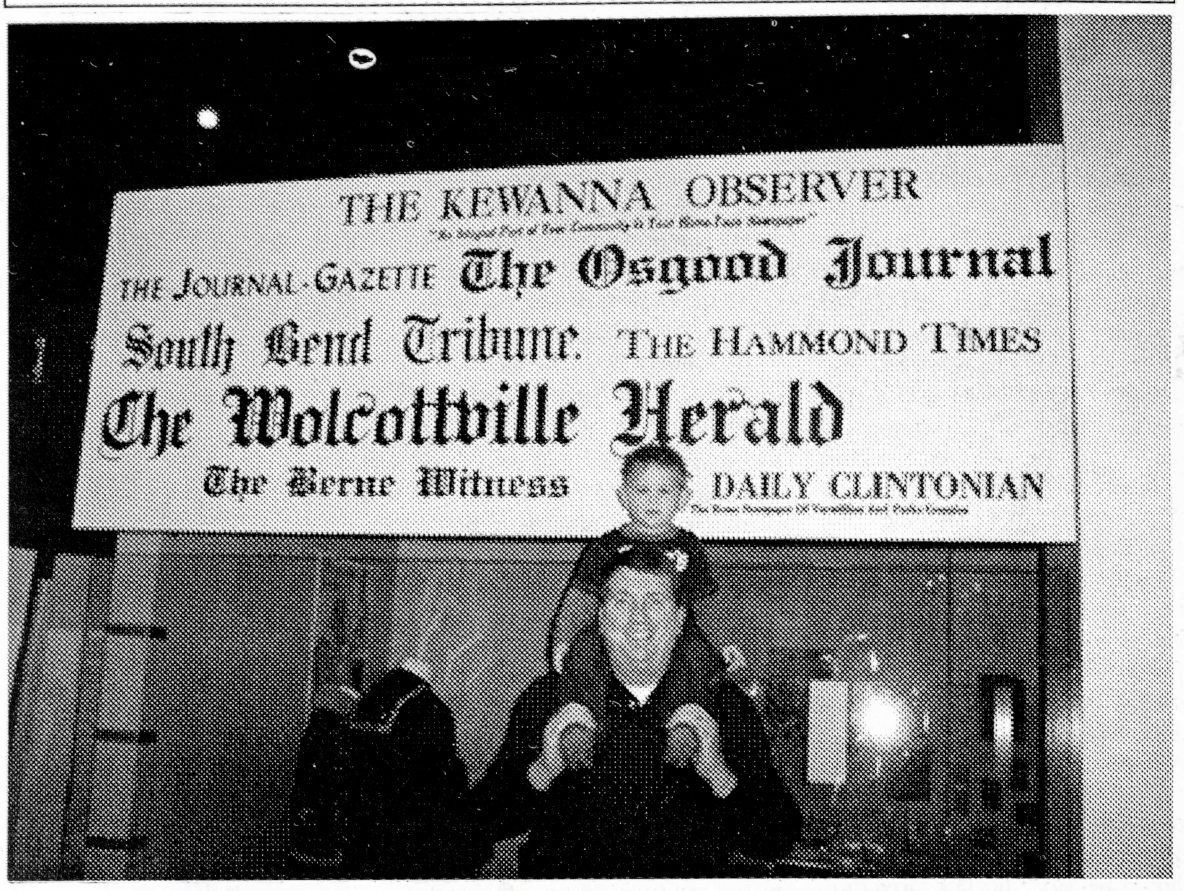
JIM BERRY & SONS, INC.
SINCE 1971
574-653-2350
9952 W. 950 S., Kewanna
574-946-7344
664 N. U.S. 35, Winamac
Country Clipper Zero Turn with Attitude!
Bush Hog
Cub Cadet The Science of Common Sense
Big Tex Trailers
Troy-Bilt
Featherlite Trailers
White Outdoor
Used Truck Sales • Shur-Lok Tarps

MAINTENANCE DOCTOR
(574) 653-9904
Kitchen Remodeling
Bathroom Remodeling
"No Job Too Small"
Fast, Courteous Service...
797 S. St Rd 17/Kewanna, IN 46939
A Division of R-Mar, Inc.

COUPON
THE WORKS FUEL SAVER PKG.
Premium Oil & Filter change. Rotate and inspect four tires. Inspect brake system. Test battery. Check air and cabin filters. Check belts & hoses. Top off all fluids.
ONLY $36.95 + tax & recycling fees w/coupon
Up to five quarts of oil. Taxes and Diesel vehicles extra. Hybrid high voltage battery test not incl. Disposal fees not incl. Offer valid with coupon.
COUPON
RADIATOR SERVICE +12-POINT VEHICLE INSPECTION
Incl.Drain & fill radiator (up to 1.5 gal. Motorcraft coolant), Inspect for leaks, check hoses, clamps & belts, pressure test system for leaks, check and fill all fluids
ONLY $39.95 or less
See your service advisor for details on the 12 pt. vehicle inspection. Disposal fee extra, if applicable.
COUPON
FREE BATTERY TEST & INSPECTION WITH ANY OTHER SERVICE COUPON PURCHASE
COUPON
LUBE, OIL & FILTER SPECIAL
Incl. lube chassis. Change oil filter & replace with genuine factory filter. Change engine oil (up to 5 qts.)
ONLY $18.95 + tax & recycling fees w/coupon
Must present coupon when order is written. Not valid w/any other offer or special.
COUPON
FUEL INJECTION SPECIAL
Save Hundreds of Dollars in Parts Replacement. Improves high speed performance. Reduces exhaust emissions. Improves gas mileage. Improves starting. Smoothes idle.
ONLY $54.95 + tax & recycling fees w/coupon
Offer valid with coupon. Must present coupon when order is written. Not valid w/any other offer or special.
FREE LIFETIME OIL CHANGES
W/ANY NEW OR USED VEHCILE PURCHASE.
(EXCL. DIESEL TRUCKS)
FREE TANK OF GAS
W/EVERY PURCHASE
Motorcraft EXCEEDS THE NEED
Jim Dobson FORD-MERCURY
806 N. Plymouth Road (next to Winamac Plaza) • Winamac 946-3117 • 1-800-388-0112
Showroom Hours: Mon-Fri 8-6 • Sat. 8-2 • Service Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5; Sat. 8-Noon

HAWK'S GARAGE
RANDY & JANICE
Did You Know We Repair TRACTORS / LP Repair
GENERAL FARM TRACTOR REPAIR
Minneapolis Moline Parts and Service.....
P.O. Box 146, Leiters Ford, IN 46945
Phone: (574) 542-4334
AGRICULTURAL AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE

McKINLEY MONUMENTS, INC.
Specializing in Quality Monuments Since 1895
108 W. Pearl, Winamac, IN
(574) 946-3352
9-12 & 1-5 Mon.-Fri.
9-12 Sat.
Other hours by appointment



Rob Wingerter, Zionsville and Lake Bruce, and his grandson, Elisha Smith, are shown here during a recent visit to the Indiana State Museum in Indianapolis. Eli enjoyed riding on the Christmas train, a reproduction of the one that was at L. S. Ayres in downtown Indianapolis for many years.

The picture was taken in the communications section where the Kewanna Observer has top billing.

+++

Attend Church Sunday

CASTON MENU
January 8 – 12
Breakfast

Choice each day with juice and milk: cereal and toast; sausage/cheese bun; ham/cheese bun; toaster pastry

Lunch

Monday – Chicken patty sandwich, whipped potatoes and gravy, broccoli, cookie and milk. Comet Café – taco

Tuesday – Corn dog, mini cubes, peaches, spice cake and milk. Comet Café – chicken quesadilla

Wednesday – Pizza, green beans, applesauce, pretzel twists and milk. Comet Café – tenderloin sandwich, French fries

Thursday – Taco salad, corn, pears, crackers and milk. Comet Café – pretzels with cheese

Friday – Deli turkey sandwich, potato smiles, Mandarin oranges, cookie and milk. Comet Café – stuffed crust pizza, baked potato bar

+++

CASTON ATHLETIC EVENTS

January 4 – Freshmen boys' basketball with Culver at Caston, 6 p.m.; girls' varsity and JV basketball at Oak Hill, 6 p.m.

January 5 – Boys' varsity/JV basketball at West Central, 6 p.m.

January 6 – Freshmen boys' basketball MWC tourney at Caston, 10 a.m.; JH boys' basketball MWC tourney at South Newton, 10 a.m.; girls' varsity/JV basketball at Tri-County, 11 a.m.

+++

Send In Your News

Recycling Dates
Friday, Jan. 12th
Friday, Jan. 26th

FULTON SOLID WASTE DISTRICT COUNTY

Materials accepted at the Recycling Center:

Aluminum Cans
- Beverage cans
- Pop tab pet food cans

Aluminum Foil
- Foil wrap
- Aluminum pie and dinner trays

Chipboard
- Cereal box type paper
- Office paper - all types
- Paperback books
- Junk mail
- Phone books
- Hardback books - covers need to be removed

No tissue or foil paper
No carbon, carbonless forms or other treated paper
No wax paper

Corrugated Cardboard
- Viewed from the edge, corrugated cardboard looks like this: VVVVVV
- Remove packing materials

Electronics
- Computers **(including mice, keyboards, monitors and printers)**
- Main frames
- Fax machines
- Scanners
- VCRs
- DVD players
- Stereos
- Telephones
- TVs

Glass Jars & Bottles
- Separate into: CLEAR COLORED
- Labels do not have to be removed
- Remove lids - put with steel

No mirrors, light bulbs, window, ceramic, Pyrex or other glass

Grocery Bags
- Paper grocery bags can be used to hold newspapers

Magazines & Catalogs
- Only magazines & catalogs made of slick, glossy paper
- Slick newspaper insert

Scrap Metal
- Small amounts of any type of scrap metal are accepted
- Aerosol cans - remove lids

Miscellaneous
- AAA-D, hearing aid, watch and rechargable batteries
- Inkjet and laser cartridges
- Items containing mercury
- Florescent bulbs
- Motor oil
- Pallets - wood or plastic
- Styrofoam packing peanuts - must be contained

Newspaper
- Stack in brown paper grocery bags
- Remove glossy inserts and put with magazines

Do not pack in plastic bags

Plastic Bags and film
- Plastic grocery bags (make sure they are empty)
- Bubble wrap
- Clean plastic film

Plastic Bottles #1-#7
- All plastic bottles - look for the chasing arrows
- Farm chemical containers - MUST be triple rinsed

Refrigerated Units
- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Air conditioners
- Dehumidifiers

(Any item containing Freon)

Steel Food Cans
- Include metal lids from glass jars
- Pet food containers

Please make sure all items are **separated** and **rinsed** out. Manufacturers require **clean and contaminant-free materials** to make new products.

574-223-4939
1452 Wentzel St., Rochester
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.;
8 a.m. - Noon Sat.
E-mail: fcswd@rtcol.com

www.fultoncountyrecycling.com

BUICK BEYOND PRECISION
BRAUN CHEVROLET BUICK
AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION
US 35 South • Winamac • 574-946-6662 Mon. - Fri. 8 to 6 • Sat. 8 to 3 - See Antonio Huizar or Tom VanCoutren

CARS.....

05 CHEVY CORVETTE COUPE 6L V8, auto trans, memory pkg, premium sound, HUD, 2k mi $39995
06 CHEVY IMPALA LT 4dr 3.9 L V6, pwr seat, w/l, sunroof, remote start, alum whls, CD, 17k $17995
05 BUICK LACROSSE CX 3800V6, pwr seat, auto temp, OnStar, remote entry&start, CD, 14k $16995
05 BUICK CENTURY CUSTOM pwr seat, wind/locks, keyless entry, tilt, cruise, CD, 42k mi $11995
04 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED dual pwr heated leather w/memory, driver info, CD, 27k mi $17995
04 BUICK REGAL GS 3800 Sup chg V6, leather buckets, chrome wheels, sunroof, CD, 56k mi $15995
04 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE 4dr 4cyl, auto, pwr wind, alum wheels, CD, rear spoiler, 42k mi $10995
04 CHEVY MALIBU CLASSIC 4cyl, auto, pwr wind/locks, tilt, cruise, alum wheels, 35,000mi $9995
03 CADILLAC CTS every option you want, plus power sunroof and chrome wheels. 46,000mi $19995
03 BUICK LESABRE LIMITED 4dr 3800 V6, dual pwr leather seats, dual temp, 56,000mi $14995
01 BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM 4dr 3800 V6, pwr wind, remote locks, alum wheels, CD, 61k $9995
00 CHEVY CAVALIER 4 dr SEDAN 4 cyl engine, auto trans, air conditioning, 82,000 mi $4495
97 BUICK CENTURY LIMITED pwr seat, window, locks, keyless entry, dual AC, 83 k $4995

TRUCKS.....

05 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 Crew Cab Z71 pwr seat, w/l, remote, dual auto AC, CD, 7k mi $24995
04 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 Ext Cab Z71 pwr w/l, CD, alum wheels, compass, trlr pkg, 37k $20995
04 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 Ext Cab Z71 pwr seat, w/l, driver info, trlr pkg, alum wheels,68k $18995
04 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 Ext Cab Z71 pwr win/lock w/remote, alum whls, trlr pkg, 49,000 $18995
04 CHEVY SILVERADO 2WD Crew Cab pwr seat, alum whls, driver info center, trl pkg 26k $19995
04 CHEVY SILVERADO 2WD Ext Cab LT long bed, pwr heated leather bucket, every opt, 46k $18995
03 CHEVY SILVERADO 2WD Ext Cab 5.3L V8, pwr seat, w/l, remote, CD, trlr pkg, 52k mi $15995
01 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 Ext Cab 5.3L V8, pwr w/l, CD, alum wheels, trailer pkg, 81kmi $14995
00 CHEVY SILVERADO 4X4 Ext Cab 5.3L V8, pwr w/l, remote, CD, chrome whls, 54,000mi $15995
01 DODGE RAM 1500 4X4 Quad Cab SLT V8, auto, pwr wind/locks, trailer pkg, 86k mi $12995
02 CHEVY S10 2WD Ext Cab LS 3dr, 4.3V6, auto, AC, tilt, cruise, CD, alum wheels, 70k mi $10995
05 CHEVY TAHOE 4X4 LT 8 pass, leather, auto temp, rear AC, 6 disc chgr, sunroof, XM, 38k $29995
04 CHEVY TAHOE 4X4 LT 7 pass, leather, quad bucket, auto temp, rear AC, alum whls, 26k $27995
04 CHEVY TAHOE 4X4 LT 8 pass, heated leather w/memory, rear AC, OnStar, XM, 45,000mi $26995
02 CHEVY TAHOE 4X4 LT 8 pass, heated leather, auto temp w/ rear AC, trlr pkg, 75,000mi $16995
04 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER EXT 4X4 LS pwr seat, w/l, keyless entry, alum wheels, 26,000mi $17995
04 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4X4 LT pwr seat, auto temp AC, 6disc CD, driver info center, 35k $17995
04 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4X4 LS pwr seat, w/l, tilt, cruise, CD, alum wheels, compass,52k $16995
03 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER EXT 4X4 LT pwr heated leather w/memory, DVD, 7 pass, 45k mi $18995
02 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER 4X4 LS 4dr pwr wind/locks, tilt, cruise, CD, trailer pkg, 36k mi $13995
04 BUICK RENDEZVOUS AWD CXL leather, Sunroof, CD chgr, OnStar, XM radio, 52k mi $16995
03 BUICK RENDEZVOUS FWD CX pwr leather seats, wpr w/l, alum wheels, CD, 37,000mi $13995
03 DODGE DURANGO SLT Plus 4X4 pwr heated seats, pwr sunroof, rear seat, CD, 24,000 mi $16995

HERE'S YOUR SIGN

By Bill Stanczykiewicz

The sign alongside the major thoroughfare pointed to the past as well as to the future. "Whatever Happened to...Polio? See the Exhibit, 2nd floor."

Nearly 100 years ago, polio was the HIV/AIDS of its day. People lived in fear of contracting this debilitating disease which seemingly held an intractable grip on the entire world. Today, however, polio virtually has been eradicated.

The demise of polio occurred thanks to an extraordinary collaboration among researchers, public health officials, government leaders and nonprofit organizations. Their solutions were then delivered by everyday doctors making house calls in the neighborhoods of America and the villages of developing nations. As a result, polio is now confined to its own iron lung, gasping to stay alive.

The noteworthy sign was posted in front of the Smithsonian Museum of American History. After terrorizing the world, polio now exists in just two places – nearly 100 medical cases in Africa and several exhibit cases in a history museum. Remarkable results are possible when people see the signs and work together to respond in amazing ways.

The same is true for healthy youth development. A collaborative effort among parents, public officials and private organizations can make a huge difference in the lives of kids. The children themselves are looking for signs that it might be so.

"Hey, coach. Are you going to call me 'Moose' again this year?" The anxious question came from an excited little leaguer who was playing for the same coach for a second season in a row.

"Absolutely, Moose," the coach replied. "Head out to left field so that we can work on our cut off throws."

The 10-year-old's strong, stocky build and hard-charging style of play led to the nickname. In turn, the nickname led to the player knowing that he was noticed, that he belonged and that he mattered. The nickname was a sign, and the player wanted to make sure the sign was still posted.

While none of the other players ever said a word about their nicknames, they still felt the same positive messages of healthy youth development. The evidence was found on their thank you note to the coach at the end of the season. Instead of just signing their names – Sam, Will, Clark and Ryan – they also signed Shag, Unit, Superman and Tag. The little leaguers knew there was something special about those nicknames – and something special about them.

We can never lose sight of the signs kids are looking for, signs of devoted adults who are passionately committed to their very existence. Yes, adults who provide food, and health care, and education and fun youth programs. But also adults who take time with young people to go on a walk and discuss the changing seasons, who watch the game and ask about a favorite player or who take time to create a nickname and display other signs that show they care.

That's one of the lessons evident at the makeshift memorial at Ground Zero. Located at the edge of devastation, the memorial includes signs of hope created by kids during the aftermath of 9/11.

"Everyone here loves you," reads one of the handwritten notes, now laminated and hanging on a simple rope where two of the world's most impressive buildings formerly stood. "If you need us, we will come to you and hold you. I have extra love that I can give to you. Come to Vermont, and we will show you the beauty of the world again. Love, Cassandra."

Or this word of advice. "If I were the President, I would go and shoot Osama bin Ladin in the butt. I feel sorry for you, and I'd come down and help, but I don't have a driver's license."

And, quite simply, "Dear friend, I'm sorry. I care about you. Chris."

Within the necessary clutter of foreign policy, military strategy and political calculation that defines our post 9/11 culture, the notes from these young people cut to the heart of the matter. Love. Peace. Hope.

Which are exactly what children and youth are yearning to experience from the rest of us. Let's keep that in mind as we embark on this New Year when much of the world, including Hoosier children, looks for signs of peace on earth and goodwill toward all.

Bill Stanczykiewicz is President & CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. He can be reached at ivi@ivi.org.

+++++

Letter To The Editor

As we prepare for the beginning of the 2007 Session of the General Assembly, we would like to note the terrific success of a bill that passed with little fanfare in 2006 but has meant a great deal to schools throughout our State.

When Governor Daniels signed House Bill 1006, school insurance premiums were at all-time highs and the educational system was searching for ways to bring greater efficiencies to our operations. This bill has successfully addressed both of these issues by providing the necessary tools and support for our local schools.

The legislation has allowed the Educational Service Centers (ESCs), a group of nine local consortiums consisting of both public and non-public schools, to establish insurance trusts for property casualty and workers' comp insurance. Currently, 111 Indiana School Corporations have expressed interest in joining these trusts and we anticipate a high level of participation.

The mere opportunity to establish these trusts has already saved millions of dollars in premiums for schools across our State. Schools have reported savings of up to 54% in their property casualty and workers compensation insurance premiums because of the competitive marketplace these efforts have created. These dollars can be spent on resources that will improve student achievement.

Additionally, HB 1006 encouraged local school corporations to participate more fully in the ESCs' cooperative purchasing and services agreements. In a recent report provided to the Indiana State Board of Education by the Department of Education, the ESCs reported documented annual savings for their school members of $23 million and this figure does not include the tremendous premium savings provided by the establishment of the insurance trusts. We believe that many more millions were saved by schools using ESC pricing to drive down their current vendors' pricing.

Governor Daniels' leadership and the support of many Indiana Legislators in promoting the efficiencies provided by HB 1006 should be lauded. The Governor has not only spoken eloquently about this need but has provided us with the tools to take successful actions. His strong support for HB 1006 and the ESCs has proven to be beneficial for our state.

The 2007 Session will address key educational issues like full-day kindergarten and an increase in the school funding formula. As our state continues to operate under a balanced budget, we realize that education will be asked to maximize our resources to focus on our most important goal: providing a quality and meaningful education to every child. With the passage of HB 1006, we will continue to streamline expenses while putting these savings into the classroom.

We appreciate Governor Daniels' support of the ESCs and the educators throughout Indiana who share a collective desire to help improve student learning and efficiencies among our schools. We look forward to working with the Governor to continue collaborative efforts among schools to drive available dollars to classrooms.

Jack L. Davis
Executive Director
Northern Indiana Educational Services Center

+++

Experts Surveyed on Congress' Performance Give The Institution a "C-minus" for 2006

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Dec. 26, 2006 - Congress scrapes by with an overall grade of "C-minus" in a newly released survey of political scientists who were asked to rate the performance of the national legislature during 2006.

The non-partisan Center on Congress at Indiana University conducted the online survey, getting a select group of 39 top academic experts on Congress from around the country to give the institution grades on 18 questions.

Members received just one "A" - on the question "Do legislators make a good effort to be accessible to their constituents?" A few "B"s were given out - one on the question "Do legislators broadly reflect the interests of their constituents?" and another on "Does Congress make its workings and activities open to the public?"

But Congress' overall GPA was dragged way down by "D"s on questions such as whether Congress keeps excessive partisanship in check, whether it carries out effective oversight of the executive branch, and whether it protects its powers from presidential encroachment.

And the experts dished out low "C"s in abundance, taking a dim view of how Congress in 2006 "kept the role of special interests within proper bounds," and "held members to high standards of ethical conduct," and "allowed members in the minority to play a role."

"C" was also the grade Congress got for "following good process and conducting its business in a deliberate way." Another "C" came on the question "Does Congress engage in productive discussion and allow all points of view to be heard?"

"If our sons or daughters brought home these grades, we'd be talking to the teacher the next day," said political scientist Edward G. Carmines, who is Director of Research for the Center on Congress and analyzed the results of the survey.

To the experts, Carmines says, Congress looks like an underachieving student who has the ability to perform better. "These experts see Congress as having the authority and power to improve its performance and image. Its weak areas are things it has control over - it can use its oversight power, reduce partisanship, tighten ethics standards. The question is, do members have the will?"

The Center on Congress plans to make an annual tradition of conducting a year-end survey of experts' opinion on the performance of Congress. "Our interest is not to dwell on past shortcomings, but to develop a sense moving forward of what areas are most in need of improvement, as well as what areas are generally handled well by Congress," explains Lee Hamilton, Director of the Center.

The Center already conducts a biennial nationwide opinion survey on the public's knowledge and evaluation of Congress, and citizen involvement in politics and elections. Findings from the 2006 survey of the public will be released in early 2007.

About the Center

The Center on Congress is a non-partisan, educational institution established in 1999 to help improve the public's understanding of Congress and to encourage civic engagement.

The Center developed out of Hamilton's recognition during his 34 years in the U.S. House of Representatives that the public should be more familiar with Congress' strengths and weaknesses, its role in our system of government, and its impact on the lives of ordinary people every day.

The Center seeks to inspire young people and adults to take an active part in revitalizing representative government in America. To that end the Center offers an extensive array of civic education resources and activities, including: print publications; Web-based, interactive modules and other online learning tools; commentaries for newspapers, radio stations, podcasts and a Weblog; video and television in the classroom resources; survey research; teacher awards; and seminars, conferences, and a lecture series.

For more information about the Center, go to www.centeroncongress.org.

###

Consumer Corner

Home Buying 101

(NAPS)—Following a few basic buying tips can help open the door to home ownership.

For instance, something as simple as creating a budget that earmarks your spending for a year can help you know what you can afford—while signing up to have a portion of your paycheck automatically deposited in your savings account can help you be certain you'll have cash for the down payment.

There are ways home buyers can turn a dream home into reality.

Try these additional tips. They come from experts at Countrywide Financial.

- Clean up credit. Make sure none of your bills is past due for at least 12 months before applying for a home loan. Also, check your credit report and clear up any errors.
- Obtain a written preapproval from a reputable mortgage lender before you start house hunting. Doing so helps you know in advance how much home you can afford.
- Decide on the down payment. Today's home loans often only require 3 or 5 percent of the home's selling price. Explore your options.
- Find a real estate agent —whether through a referral from friends or family, or by contacting your local real estate professional association.

For more information, visit www.countrywide.com or call (800) 570-9888.

Public Notice

RESOLUTION 122806
A RESOLUTION OF THE KEWANNA TOWN COUNCIL ESTABLISHING MEETING TIMES FOR 2007

WHEREAS, the Kewanna Town Council has established that they will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p. m. at the Town Hall, unless the first Thursday falls on an observed holiday, in which case the Town Council will set an alternative date to be advertised according to Indiana Code.

WHEREAS, the Kewanna Town Council has established meeting times as set out under IC 36-2-26 et. seq;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE KEWANNA TOWN COUNCIL THAT:

1. The Kewanna Town Council will meet the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, unless the first Thursday falls on an observed holiday, in which case the Town Council will set an alternative date to be advertised.

2. Other special meetings will be scheduled and public notice will be given.

ADOPTED THIS 28TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2006

KEWANNA TOWN COUNCIL
JAMES FINKE
DORAN COLLINS

ATTEST: KAREN GOOD
CLERK-TREASURER

RUDE FARMS
Excavating & Trucking
*Land Clearing * Tile Work
*Ditch Work * Hauling
Jesse Rude
3358 N - 1000 W
Rochester, IN 46975
(574) 835-0158

Governor Signs Contract To Modernize State Eligibility System

INDIANAPOLIS (December 27, 2006) – Governor Mitch Daniels signed an agreement with an IBM-led team of partners to work with the state to help modernize the state's failing eligibility system. The agreement will utilize Hoosiers in state government and the private sector to provide administrative and technological support for the state's eligibility determination process. It is designed to improve services to clients, reduce errors, waste, and fraud, and improve the state's welfare reform record.

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) and the IBM team are expected to begin implementation of the agreement immediately, and will begin to meet with employees in early January to prepare for the first step in the transition to the modernized solution, scheduled for August 2007.

"For taxpayers, a billion dollars of savings. For recipients, better service and a better chance to escape welfare for the world of work and self-reliance. For employees, better compensation and career prospects. For the Indiana economy, 1,000 new quality jobs. No decision we've made is more clearly in the public interest," said Daniels.

The state will save nearly $500 million in administrative costs alone over the next 10 years, and countless millions more as errors are reduced and federal penalties avoided.

According to the agreement, all final eligibility determinations for public assistance programs, such as Food Stamps, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Medicaid, will remain with the state and be made by state employees. The IBM-led team will provide essential administrative and technological support to receive and process information necessary to make those eligibility determinations.

FSSA began exploring ways to improve the state's failing welfare system in early 2005. After many months of careful study and examination, FSSA issued a request for proposals (RFP) in March 2006, asking for outside partners to help the state meet its desired goals in welfare reform and system modernization. In May, the governor appointed an inter-agency review team to study the need for modernizing the system, confirm FSSA's determination that any reforms could not be achieved in-house, and negotiate the best and final offers for those bidders responding to the RFP.

The governor announced on November 29 that he had accepted the review team's recommendation to proceed with the modernization solution as revised and designed by that team, and the state received final federal approval of the proposal on December 18. Three different federal agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reviewed the proposal for over two months. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (HHS), the Administration for Children and Families (HHS), and the Food and Nutrition Service (USDA) have maintained active dialogue with the state since early 2005 on how to fix Indiana's failing welfare system.

The governor reviewed final documents, including comments made at a public hearing on December 8, before making his final decision to sign the agreement.

+++++++

Indiana Traffic-Related Fatalities On Decline In 2006

INDIANAPOLIS (December 29, 2006) – Preliminary statistics show that the number of fatalities on Indiana's roadways this year has dropped significantly from 2005, according to data from the Indiana State Police (ISP). Through December 22, there have been 81 fewer fatalities compared to the same period in 2005.

"Causality is complex, but a nearly 10 percent drop is probably more than good luck. Motorists should know we're going to keep adding troopers to the road, because every fatality is a tragedy. We've had a better year, but let's close the year safely," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

Through December 22, Indiana law enforcement agencies reported 845 fatalities on Indiana's roadways. For the comparable period a year ago, there were 926. According to state police, there have been 75 fewer crashes on Indiana roadways through December 22 of this year compared to the same period a year ago (769 through Dec. 22, 2006; 844 for same period of 2005).

Among efforts employed to make Indiana's roads safer this year are rigorous enforcement, public education programs, roadway safety improvements, and additional selected funding for traffic safety initiatives.

For example, the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) targeted seat belt and alcohol issues in specific high fatality counties. As a result, 37 Indiana counties in which 70 percent of the state's traffic fatalities occurred in the last three years were identified as eligible for special grants. Of those counties, 10 applied for and received additional funding for targeted and data-driven enforcement efforts.

From October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006, those 10 counties had an average reduction in fatalities of 8.3 percent, compared to less than a half percent reduction in fatalities for those counties that did not receive additional funding. The 10 targeted counties had 83 fewer fatalities as of November 1, 2006, compared to the same time period in 2005.

Indiana State Police (ISP) have used data from crash reports to focus enforcement efforts where they are needed most, concentrating on areas where there have been increases in serious injury and fatal crashes. ISP also has used more troopers on patrol and increased the number of marked squad cars on roadways in 2006.

"Indiana troopers have increased enforcement activity significantly over the last year. We've made strides in reducing vehicle crashes across Indiana, but there is more to do," said ISP Superintendent Paul Whitesell.

Here are other Indiana efforts aimed at reducing traffic accidents:

· The ICJI awarded grants to enable local law enforcement agencies to fund overtime enforcement. The result was 10,545 DUI related citations, 90,347 seat belt citations, 18,466 speeding citations, and 4,448 child restraint citations from October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006.

· Local law enforcement agencies working overtime traffic safety enforcement in 2006 have written 19,748 more citations this year for such offenses as speeding and drunk driving.

· Installation of cable barriers, such as the median guide rails in Boone County on Interstate 65, has limited the amount of fatal cross-over collisions on sections of roadway.

· Public education campaigns continue to increase awareness of seat belt use. According to the ICJI, seat belt use has increased 3.1 percent from 2005, which translates to an all-time high of 84.3 percent usage. Seat belt usage among passenger car occupants was observed at 91.4 percent. For pickup trucks, the rate was 54.4 percent.

++++++

Keep Safety in Mind as You Put Away Holiday Decorations

December 27, 2006 - Now that the holidays are over, take down your decorations and start the New Year safely, advises the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), the not-for-profit product safety testing organization.

According to the NFPA, 20 percent of home fires attributed to Christmas trees occur in January. "Christmas trees can be a significant fuel source if a fire occurs in your home," said Lorraine Carli, NFPA assistant vice president of communications. "Dried-out trees burn easily and should not be left in a garage or placed against the house. We recommend you remove your tree from the home and dispose of it properly as soon as your Christmas celebration ends."

"Even well-watered trees dry out after four weeks," John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager for UL, explained. "So if your real tree went up right after Thanksgiving, it should be discarded after Christmas and not New Year's Day."

Carli and Drengenberg also remind you that Christmas trees aren't the only holiday decorations that need prompt attention after the holidays.

"Leaving your decorations out for several months or even all year not only aggravates your neighbors," Carli said, "but it also leaves the wires exposed to rain, snow, cold, the sun, squirrels and birds longer than intended by the safety standards."

"Many people don't realize that holiday lights should only be up for a limited time," Drengenberg continued, "The safety standards are developed anticipating a maximum of 90 days of use per year because these decorations are considered seasonal. If you leave decorations out any longer, the resulting damage could cause an electrical shock or a fire hazard."

As you unplug and store your lights - whether indoors or outdoors - remember the safety precautions you take now can prevent hazards from occurring next season.

Following is a checklist of safety tips that are not only helpful to stay safe as you take down your holiday decorations, but are useful all year-around.

· When using electrical toys or appliances for the first time, carefully read and follow all instructions in the manufacturer's use and care booklet. Make sure electrical toys and appliances have the UL Mark.

·Use the gripping area provided on the plugs to unplug electric decorations. Don't pull plugs from electrical outlets by the cord. Yanking or tugging on the cord can damage the cord's wire and insulation and could lead to an electrical shock or fire.

·When putting away electrical light strings, take time to inspect for flaws. Check each light set for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections.

·Dispose of worn or broken light sets and replace them. Do not place a faulty set of lights back into the storage box for next year's use. Store electrical decorations away from children and pets to ensure that cords and wires are not damaged in storage.

· Store electrical decorations in a dry place where they can not be damaged by water or dampness.

· To keep from having a tangled mess of lights next year, be sure to pack them appropriately. When preparing your holiday lights for storage, you can purchase a holiday light storage reel, or create your own storage systems. For example, wrap the lights around an empty wrapping paper tube or a cardboard square, or wrap each set of lights and put them in individual plastic bags.

For more post-holiday safety tips, to download footage of how quickly a dry Christmas tree incinerates or for photographs related to holiday decoration safety, go to http://www.ul.com/newsroom or http://www.nfpa.org.

About UL

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) is an independent, not-for-profit product safety certification organization that has been testing products and writing Standards for Safety for more than 110 years. UL tests more than 19,000 types of products annually, and more then 20 billion UL Marks appear on products each year. Worldwide, UL's family of companies and its network of service providers include 62 laboratories, and testing and certification facilities. For more information, visit http://www.ul.com.

About NFPA

NFPA has been a worldwide leader in providing fire, electrical, building, and life safety to the public since 1896. The mission of the international nonprofit organization is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by providing and advocating consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. Visit NFPA's Web site at http://www.nfpa.org.

++++++

Subscribe To The OBSERVER

LAWN CARE
Commercial
Residential
"Since 1986"
If You're Particular,
Call Us, "We Are Too!"
R-MAR, Inc.
P.O. Box 465, Kewanna, IN 46939
PH.: (574) 653-2387

CLASSIFIED ADS

BUY RENT SELL

FOR SALE – New shipment of pecans. $6.50 for a 1-pound bag. Available at The Observer, Kewanna, or by calling Beth Weller, 653-2173, or Karen Good, 653-2777.

+++

NURSE WANTED / Full-Time registered nurse wanted. Send resume to Hope Hospice, P.O. Box 621, 420 Main Street, Rochester, IN 46975 or send E-Mail at hospicepcc@rtcol.com.

12/28, 1/4, 2007

FOR RENT

Station House APARTMENTS.....

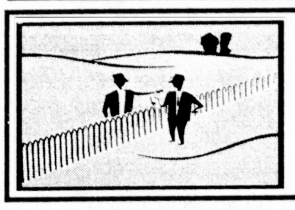
KEWANNA, INDIANA

Spacious one bedroom and efficiency apartments. Private exterior entry; refrigerator; range; on-siite laundry facilities; some utilities included. Country setting; plenty of off-street parking. Rent based on 30% of adjusted income; income guidelines apply - Elderly (62 and older), Disabled, Handicapped Housing; Rental Assistance Available. For more information Call Jennifer Hibner at (574)653-2324 or Kathy Richards Management at 1-888-576-6468.

Equal Housing Opportunities.
Now Taking Applications

NEW HOLLAND
NEW HOLLAND ROCHESTER, Inc.
New Holland - Grasshopper - Hiniker Dealer
We Can Fill Your Farm Equipment Needs!!
• PARTS
• SALES
• SERVICE
Junction U.S. 31 and 25
ROCHESTER, IN 46975
PH.: (574) 223-2714
1-800-327-5936

Subscribe To The OBSERVER



Town & Country CHATTER...

By: Julie Brown (574) 653-2451

Ruth Cogdill's Christmas celebration began Friday, Dec. 22, when her grandson, Shade Cogdill, (who was accompanied by his grandfather, Richard Arrasmith of Star City) spent the morning with her. They had a wonderful time exchanging gifts and catching up on all of Shade's school news. Shade also had to tell Grandma all his plans for Christmas vacation. Saturday, Dec. 23, Tim Cogdill came for a visit. He and Ruth caught up on all the family news and discussed where they would be spending the Christmas holiday. In the afternoon, Ruth traveled to Winamac for a five- day stay with her daughter and son- in-law, Linda and Gordon Ligocki. Sunday, Dec. 24, Ruth's granddaughter and her family, Sonya and Brian Kleiner and Sid, arrived from Woodland Park, Colorado. (Sonya's father, Dr. Charlie Heinsen, had picked them up at the airport and upon their arrival at Tortuga Inn, wished everyone present a Merry Christmas.) In the evening, a traditional candlelight dinner was served for family and friends. Among those present were the hosts, Linda and Gordon Ligocki; Ruth Cogdill; the Ligockis' daughters and their families, Renata, Joe, Doran, Lily and Roan of Winamac and Sonya and Brian Kleiner and Sid; and family friend, Dale Fleming.

Tom and Barb LaFollette had company Christmas Eve. Coming for a holiday visit were their children and grandchildren, Chris and Nita LaFollette, Michele, Michael, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Thomas of LaPorte and Karina and Terry Bohac, Shelby and Nick, of Rochester. Everyone had a wonderful time exchanging gifts and enjoying the Italian meal prepared by Martino's Italian Villa of Kokomo.

Beth and Ray Weller left late Monday, Dec. 25, for a four- day holiday visit in Ohio. They were guests of their daughters and son- in- law, Beth Ann Deckard and Linda and Steve Tufts, in Lebanon. Also joining in the double celebration were Beth Ann's daughter and son- in- law, Kirsten and Rob Kaufman, and the Tufts' daughters, Leah of the University of Kentucky and Lauren of the Johnson and Wales Culinary School in Providence, Rhoda Island. Everyone had a fun time celebrating Christmas and Beth's birthday.

Jackie Heidenreich and John Lincoln were Christmas Day dinner guests of Jackie's daughter and son- in- law, Vickie and Mike Molitor.

Sonya Kleiner had a visitor Monday. Stopping by for a chat and overnight stay was her college friend, Laura Lail of Lafayette.

Shelby Bohac arrived Tuesday, Dec. 26, for a three- day visit with Barb and Tom LaFollette.

Linda Garner was a Tuesday visitor of her parents, Don and Pauline Scales.

Helen Whiteman returned home Tuesday following a holiday visit with her grandson and his family, Dr. David Matthew and Lauren Parker and children in Augusta, Georgia. Also joining the family for a Christmas get- together were Matthew's parents, Drs. David and Cindy Parker of Marion, Virginia; his brother, Quinton Parker of West Virginia University; and his sister and her family, Dr. Cathy and Tim Schauer, Nicholas and Jonathan, of Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Gordon and Linda Ligocki and their guests had visitors Tuesday evening. Joining them for dinner were Ruth Ann and Dick Conner and their daughter and grandchildren.

Bill Evers, Veronica Pardy and Veronica's daughter, Courtney of Henrietta, New York spent several days over the holidays visiting with family and friends in the area.

Jerry and Kay Brown had company during the week. Arriving Thursday, Dec. 28, for an overnight visit was their son, Kerry Brown of Shelbyville. During his stay, Jerry and Kerry attended a holiday basketball tourney at Marion.

Barb and Jon Gast and Angela were in Logansport Thursday. They did some shopping before meeting Barb's friend, Laverne Andry, for a pleasant visit over lunch. Afterward, the Gasts enjoyed visiting with Barb's sister, Bea Ann Clark.

Notice To Subscribers

PLEASE notify The Observer office whenever you have a change of address. New addresses may be sent to The Observer, P. O. Box 307, Kewanna, IN 46939; or, telephoned to (574) 653-2101.

FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP
FARMERS
76 YEARS SERVING AMERICA
Gets you back where you belong.®
EVANS INSURANCE AGENCY LLC
1220 Main Street, Rochester, IN 46975
HOURS :-: Mon.-Fri. 8-5 / Sat. 9-12
Phone: (574) 224-6988 or 1-888-609-8189

1-574-292-0143 Thermo Pride
Hiatt Electric Co.
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
AUTHORIZED THERMO PRIDE DEALER SINCE 1956
Ernest L. Hiatt
Owner
3404 West - 450 North
Rochester. IN 46975

Webb's Family Pharmacy can help you manage your out-of-pocket costs and save you money.
We will work with your insurance and your physician to help you select quality, cost-effective medications to maximize your benefit.
Webb's FAMILY PHARMACY
"The Professional Pharmacy With The Hometown Touch"
Downtown Rochester and Akron, 574-223-2216,
574-893-2279, www.WebbRx.com

Electrical Plumbing
All Seasons Home Center
www.allseasonslumber.com
Lumber Rental
U.S. 35 N., Winamac • (574) 946-6968 HRS (E.T.): MON-FRI 8:30 AM - 7 PM;
SAT. 8:30 AM - 5 PM / SUN. 10 AM - 2 PM
4x8 sheets PANELING NEW STYLES IN STOCK
Ashland $9.99
Mountain Oak $9.99
Bayshore $12.99
Madison Maple $14.99
Tavern $14.99
Desert Sun $15.49
40 sq. ft. bag Mini Roll R13 Insulation $10.25
2x4x8' SPF #2 & BTR $1.99
20 lb. ICE MELTER $4.25 50 lb. $6.49
QUANTITIES LIMITED! Now Stocking 24"x 36" single hung WINDOWS $75
Pre-Hung Interior starting at $79.99
Featured Door $139.99
7/16 OSB $5.99
NOW STOCKING! 1x Material
Oak • Maple • Poplar • Pine
Pre-Hung Exterior starting at $139.99
30 sq. ft. bags Cellulose Insulation $4.49
1 Day FREE Blower Rental w/purchase of 10 or more bags